

**GE-Pittsfield Citizen's Coordinating Council  
Berkshire Community College  
Susan B. Anthony Room  
January 6, 2000  
Meeting Highlights**

Prepared by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution.

**Introductions**

All members introduced themselves.

**NRD Presentation** – *by Dale Young, Tom O'Brien, Mark Barash (DOI)*

Harry noted the earlier presentation on this topic that occurred in Tom O'Briens's office. He stated that this presentation would cover some of the same information but also include new information as well. He solicited questions that the CCC would like to have particularly answered during the presentation and put them on a flip chart. He then introduced the presenters.

**Tom O'Brien.**

Tom reviewed the Scope of Work. It will include:

- 200 ft. native grassland communities- 200ft strip
- Lyman St., Hill 78,
- Unkamet Wetland restoration
- Wetland restorations to occur off site.
- Recreational enhancement to Silver Lake.
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He noted the inability to implement structurally diverse habitats on-site due to engineered barriers-resulted in 12 acres off-site. Trustees did not want to compromise integrity of barrier.

**Dale Young**

Dale reviewed the NRD process and made the following points.

Composition of Trustee Council.

Memorandum of Agreement provides for coordination of trustee Agencies (DOI, NOAA, State of MA, State of CT). Public will be able to comment on MOA. 1 permanent representative & alternate of each agency serve on council. Each agency has 1 vote; decisions based on unanimous consent. Split between expenditures on MA and CT. For example, MA decisions by MA, NOAA and DOI; but not CT. Vice Versa for CT. There will be a lead Administrative Trustee and also possibility of a Coordinator.

CCC members voiced very strong interest for public involvement on council. Suggested “ex-officio” membership of public on Trustee Council. Also felt public should be on advisory committees.

**Mark Barish**, US Department of the Interior.- He noted that the site and thus the NRD project is complex. It has many communities and interests. It also has active groups like HRR which has produced a very valuable report. He stated that he wants to ensure all groups are represented.

He noted that the final decision-making authority does lie with trustee agencies.

CCC members proposed that there be equal representation of ex-officio members from Connecticut & Massachusetts (i.e., overall watershed) at all meetings. The need to actively poll both County residents was also noted. It was felt that council members do not live in the area and are removed from impact of the site.

A packet was presented to Mr. Barish including 28 letters of support from stakeholders to appoint Rachel Fletcher as ex-officio member of council including letters from: State Representatives, Boards of Selectmen, Boards of Conservation, Nature Conservancy, MA Audubon, MA Division of FW & others.

Mr. Barish noted needs to try to find areas of overlap between narrow statutory mandate for trustees and broad needs of community. HRR plan contains a lot of excellent proposals but not all can be addressed under the mandate.

He noted that money can be used outside the site or river in some circumstances. It is possible to find innovative ways to focus restoration still related to impacted species, which could be in a completely different geographic area, but that these are rare exceptions.

Trustees anticipated study on which damages were based did take into account anticipated impacts which do not differ substantially from what is being found in studies now (for example; ducks); but it did not collect amount of data necessary to prove it in court.

#### **DEP Update on West Branch-** *by Lynn Cutler of DEP*

On December 8, 2000 DEP issued to GE the requirement to investigate West Branch, to be based on EPA data collected for background purposes for the East Branch. The Scope of Work is due Jan.22, 2000.

#### **EPA Update on CCC Work related to CDC Schedule** – *by Bryan Olson of EPA*

- 1/7/00- Investigation Plan- 20's 30's 40's: To EPA from GE
- To be discussed at February CCC Meeting

- GE workers meeting with EPA to be arranged via Tim Gray
- 1/7/00- Quality Assurance Plan ("Sampling Protocols")
  - Public input?
- End 1/00- Engineering/Cost Analysis for first 1 ½ mile draft ready
- 3/2000- Draft for public comment of Engineering/Cost Analysis for first 1 ½ mile
  - Needs Public Input
  - Presentation in March: Whole Meeting – Public needs to get this before the meeting in March.
- 3/7/00- Newel St. Properties Plan (Like 20's 30's 40's)
  - For public comment?

**GE Update-** *by Mike Carroll & Bill Horne of GE*

Brownfields demolition- removed utilities corridor over East St., demolishing former fuel tanks and stacks associated with powerhouse; developing plans to demolish powerhouse.

Residential- Fill Remediation - 44 properties completed, 27,000 cubic yards excavated. Some restoration to be completed in spring.

Evaluating 9 additional properties this week. 27 additional properties to be remediated in 2000.

Allendale School- ribbon- cutting ceremony Dec.15 students & staff of school, local, state, & EPA officials.

In regards to work in the river:

1<sup>st</sup> week December. Completed 1<sup>st</sup> cell 140ft long on north side.

2<sup>nd</sup> cell-500 cy removed, 400 ft long on South side complete.

Currently working on 3<sup>rd</sup> cell.

Oily sheen encountered in 1<sup>st</sup> cell-20 ft x 20 ft.

Areas excavated to additional depth. Didn't appear to be coming from bank. Smelled like coal tar.

King St. Dump- Supplemental investigation proposal submitted to DEP for consideration.

**Update on Residential Fill Ad-Hoc Committee Results**

Harry brought the CCC up to date on the work of this ad-hoc committee.

Committee drafted a proposal which was submitted to GE on Dec. 22, 1999.

It included 2 components- 1) a modified residential fill remediation process and 2) a process to resolve compensation issues.

GE noted that as a result of the holidays, personnel have had only a few days to look at the proposal and therefore GE unable to respond at this time. GE noted that it will provide response to the committee on or before next CCC meeting in January 2000.

A request was made to have GE provide comments on the proposal before comments are due on CD.

### **Other Matters**

A CCC member requested that the CCC revisit communication issues between the CCC and the agencies implementing the CD. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item either for the February or March meeting.